

## VANDALISM OF INFORMATION MATERIAL IN COLLEGES OF EDUCATION IN DELTA STATE

Isebe, L.E.Marcus

Library Department, Delta State University Abraka, Nigeria.

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**ABSTRACT:** *The study Examine the extent of the vandalism of information materials in Colleges of Education in Delta State, Nigeria. The total population of this study comprises of the users of the four (4) Colleges of Education in Delta State. The sample population was two hundred (200), Sample was used for the study, frequency table and simple percentage was used to analyze the study. The study revealed that vandalism of information materials occurs in all the libraries. It also revealed that suspects of the vandalism are mainly students and staff, in view of the findings, the following were recommended; cheap and sharp photocopy services should be put in place in the libraries, Staff in-service training should be encouraged by the library management (librarian) to enlighten, particularly the junior staffs on what library profession is all about, this will enhance the efficiency of the workers, there should be regular funding of the library to enable it buy multiple copies of each book title, there should be regular user education, regular campaign and suggestion books mounted in the library to enable those students have their views and grievances.*

**KEYWORDS:** Vandalism, Information Material, Colleges, Education, Delta State.

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### INTRODUCTION

Academic library is an integral part of institution of higher learning and met appendices or adjuncts of the institutions. Okiy (2014), Observed that libraries that exist in institutions of higher education such as universities, colleges of education, colleges of technology and polytechnics are all academic libraries. Academic libraries are libraries that are attached to academic institutions above the secondary school level, serving the teaching and research needs of students and staff. This library serves two complementary purposes; to support the school's curriculum and to support the research of the faculty and student.

From the above, 'definitions provided by various authors, it is wise for one to conclude that academic libraries are established to cater for their individual parent bodies. That is, the academic community, and the academic community includes lecturers, undergraduates, departmental specialists and researchers. Academic libraries usually have rich collections covering variety of subjects.

Vandalism in the library has of late become a canker worm, which have eaten deep into the academic library system without distinction. These problems have remained unabated even though a lot of efforts and resources have been expended by librarian and information centers managers to stop these unwholesome acts. These unpopular and deviant behaviours of library clients are seen as a setback to library development especially now that the importance of library

and its resources are being recognized and utilized as major partner in the educational development of any higher institution. Marcus (2012) states that a library is a book bank, where simple library reconciliation is down by stock taking, Changing and discharging of information materials.

Vandalism is one of the major problems that affect the services of librarians in collage of education. Librarians are information manager, it's their responsibilities to ensure that they are adequately informed in preventing the act in their libraries, No wonder Hant, (2003) says that, the threat of intellectual property through theft and vandalism of intellectual and other forms of abuse has posed challenge to the growth and development of the college libraries and librarians in generally.

Vandalism in libraries can take many forms. Lincoln and Alan (1989) enumerated six types of vandalism in libraries which included;

- Intentional damage to materials,
- vandalism outside the building,
- vandalism inside the building,
- vandalism to vehicles and
- vandalism to equipment and arson.

The librarians, the library and the users suffer the effects of vandalism, in their libraries. Vandalism of library material is the act of deliberate destruction of information material both books and non books materials, In agreement with Hart (2011), who observes that explanations for information vandalism in libraries are diverse in nature, with the present financial problem at hand, the college librarians has to consider not only how to satisfy the books demands of the newly created departments or course but also to consider how to replace the vandalized books and improve the services of the library. According to Eyo & Nkanu, (2007) they discover that the influence of book vandalism on leading services in academic libraries in Cross River state of Nigeria is significantly high and submitted that a book theft is the worst library abuse. Bello (2001) confirmed that such vandalized books cannot be loaned and rare materials are lost through this act.

Salaam & Onitade (2010), Vandalism of library materials has been an age long problem in the libraries which take the form of ripping off pages of books and document, deliberate defacement of materials and sabotage of library equipments and outright theft of books materials.

College's librarians in Delta States has a major responsibility to the college and community to provide appropriate protection and some assurance of the continued availability of scholar resources. As part of this important mission, College librarians are strongly committed to securing its information materials against vandalism and damages:

Pedersen (1990) admits that, regardless of her profile, students cannot be identified as potential vandals. Goldstein (1996) agrees that vandals are hard to identify, although he maintains that vandals are more likely to be male and Caucasian. He also notes that vandalism is quite often a group activity and that most vandalism (of schools, libraries and other sites) occurs before and

after school hours, at night, on weekends, during vacation times, later in the school week, and later in the school year. From his review of the literature, Alan (1989) suggests that the number of patrons using a library and the size of city in which the library is located relate to an increased rate of vandalism. He also found out that libraries close to schools tend to have more vandalized outside their building. He did not find that the socio-economic status of the community in which the library is situated is a factor in library vandalism. Along with her finding that the quality of library services does not appear to be a factor in a vandal's motivation, Constantly found no relationship between the availability of indexing and abstracting services, of databases and the amount of mutilation of periodicals. Although potential vandals cannot be identified as they walk into the library, the (above) literature is useful in identifying key times when vandalism may be expected. It also illuminates certain factors that apparently relate to an increase in vandalism. Librarians who identify when and where these factors are present may have a better chance of designing effective prevention strategies in their college.

### **Research Questions**

However, the following research question will be used to guide the study.

1. To find out the types of information materials that are mostly vandalized.
2. What are the penalties for offenders who are caught vandalizing library materials?
3. To find out the category of those vandals.
4. To find out measures to stem information vandalism.

### **Objectives of the study**

The specific objectives of the study include:

1. determine the type of information
2. determine the penalties for offenders.
3. ascertain the category of users who indulge in these acts of vandalism.
4. ascertain the measures to stem information materials vandalism.

### **Assumption of the study**

The libraries under study have the following assumptions:

1. The college libraries under study do not have adequate security systems.
2. College libraries are poorly funded for effective implementation of library programs and their services.
3. Vandalism of library materials in academic libraries is caused by the libraries' system of operation and inadequate facilities, cost of books, and the intentions of library users.
4. Inadequacy of library staff hinders the effective implementation of library services.
5. Vandalism hinders the growth and service at libraries.
6. Professional courses books are mostly stolen while reference books and serials are often vandalized.

### **Statement of the problem**

College professional courses books libraries are supposed to play vital roles in provision of libraries and information services to its users. But the negative impact of vandalism has continued to affect the smooth running of its libraries services in colleges of education in Delta State and Nigeria in general. Given the important role that college libraries play in education, it

becomes necessary to investigate the likely information materials that are mostly prone to vandalism. Categories of users that are more involve in vandalism and to find out measures to stem vandalism in colleges of education libraries.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research method employed in this study to investigate the problem of vandalism of information materials in college libraries is determined by the nature and the outcome of the research result. According to Edom (1997) he says that the nature of any research determined type of research design to be adopted in the research process. This has to do with the type of problem that is being study that determines the type of research method to be used in order to have an in-depth study of the problem of vandalism in the library under study and be able to proffer an acceptable recommendation for the solution. Base on this, the researcher employed the survey research method to carry out this study to describe systematically this study factually and accurately.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The idea of making the college library the centre of education has long been conceptualized throughout the world and Nigeria in particular. Information materials Vandalism is a serious problems in every library in the world. This could jokingly be described as library epidemic Goldstein (1996) suggested that the most successful approach and prevention strategies for Vandalism in libraries will be comprehensive, prescriptive and appreciative. Salaam and Omotola (2010) expressed that human being as agent of destruction in libraries have been the most difficult to control. He recommended that library security personnel as well as readers services staff and indeed all library staff should be exposed to short training course in library security at least once in three years. Salaam and Onofade (2010) the results of their study designed together information on how best to reduce the theft and vandalism in academic library in Nigeria.

Alokun's (1985) works treated book theft and vandalism and the effects on different libraries. They are of the opinion that book theft and vandalism universal problems and that the effects are better imagined than experienced and that all hands should be on deck to ensure that these barbaric acts are curbed or eradicated from our libraries. Matthews (2004) asserted that there appears to be little published in recent years on security and libraries, particularly in the UK. This could be interpreted as nonchalance Librarians and information professionals towards the issue of library collection security. A few authors did publish some articles on crimes in academic library but not much has been advocated for using modern technologies to remedy the situation. Academic library have invested enormously in books, journals, and other materials.

The security of these huge investments is a sine qua non to the success of the libraries effort to remain relevant and in providing good information services. Salaam and Onitade (2010) expressed those human beings as agents of destruction in libraries have been most difficult to control. He recommended that library security personnel as well as reader's services staff and indeed all library staff should be exposed to short training course in library security at least once

in every four years. They also state the results of a study designed to gather information on how best to reduce the theft, loss and mutilation in a university library in Nigeria. He concluded with a number of useful suggestions on more effective library security measures. On the other hand, Johnson (1974) work was concerned with library crimes generally. They are of the opinion that theft and mutilation of library materials are integral and most serious forms of crimes committed in the libraries by library users. Theft and vandalism of library materials date back to ancient time. Supporting this, Akinfolarin, (1992) states that in ancient Egypt, writing on papyrus and leather were restricted to tombs and Temple archive room under lock and key to prevent them from being stolen, This clearly indicates that theft of library materials has been an age long act. Radcliffe confirmed this when he asserted that theft, mutilation of stock and disaster are certainly not new to libraries.

In Nigeria, cases of book theft and vandalism for four consecutive years spanning 1980-1984, the annual reports of the Kashim Ibrahim Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria carried cases of book theft and vandalism in the library. In 1980/81, the annual report was captioned "Delinquent Patrons" This report revealed cases of book theft and vandalism as well as illegal use of privately designed date due stamps by library patrons to stamp fictitious dates on books.

This system was designed to remove through illegal means the library materials without being caught by the library staff. The 1982/83 annual report exposed cases of recovered books of the school stolen by the students. These books were recovered after a thorough search at the student halls of residence. The 1983/84 annual report contained seven cases of the library books stolen and mutilated by the library users. In most cases, the books stolen were not recovered again, and if recovered it was discovered that the book has been badly mutilated with the most vital chapters torn off. These acts pose great deal of problem to replace the lost or mutilated information materials by the library.

In another development, the University of Calabar, Nigeria is not spared from these acts of anti-library development. The 1984/85 annual report of the university carried the Library committee investigation report of cases of the students who illegally removed some books from the library. And in the University of Jos, the JULIA bulletin reported that incessant theft and mutilation of serial collection forced the library carried another report of the theft of library books by non-students of the university.

Vandalism in libraries can take many forms. Lincolns and Allan (1989) is enumerated six types of vandalism in libraries, including: intentional damage to material outside the building, vandalism inside the building, vandalism to vehicles, vandalism to equipment arson. For example, one public library in Georgia spent \$5,000 in one month repairing windows that were repeatedly broken by vandals. Prevention strategies for all types of vandalism will be presented in the last section of this paper. The remainder of this section will explore the insidious problem of materials vandalized.

Many authors, such as Robert and Schuman (1994) do not believe that complete elimination of information materials vandalism is possible. However, he suggests that understanding the types of materials that are most frequently mutilated is the first step in reducing the problem. For

example, studies have shown that materials about controversial subjects and materials in special formats are more frequent targets than other materials, Curry, Flodin and Matheson (2000). The survey of libraries subscribing to Playboy that found two-thirds of the libraries experienced problems with that magazine alone Cornog and Perper (1996) supports the contention that controversial materials are a target for vandalism. The literature abounds with examples such the vandalism of twelve gay-positive; books in the Central Michigan University library "Gay" (1996). The books were discovered with ripped out pages and tossed into toilets. Although not vandalism of sex materials per say, six Boston public libraries found copies of an illustrated essay supporting pedophilia as an acceptable practice pasted into their books R.O (1994), Cornog and Perper (1996) warn librarians about treating the vandalism of sex materials differently than the vandalism of other materials. They suggest that it is inappropriate to choose not to carry sex materials where such a decision would not be considered for other types of materials. They recommend employing the same strategies to prevent vandalism as librarians, user or other materials, and not to simply restricting or not replacing the materials.

Religious materials are also prone to be vandalized. For example, in four Indiana University libraries, works written about Jehovah's Witnesses had their pages slashed and torn and were dumped into garbage's Roger(1997) vandal also left Jehovah's Witnesses literature throughout one of the libraries. The library staff in one academic library in Arkansas spent the summer using heat to stickers hearing a pro-KKK message that had been applied to almost six hundred books "KKK" (1996) unusual but happy result in their case was that through increasing their security patrols and the posting of plain- clothes police, they caught the vandal.

Not only controversial materials are the targets for vandalism. For example, in California the modern American poetry collection of twenty libraries was targeted by a "book slicer" E. McC. (1996) In Curry, Flodin and Matheson's(2000) interviews with public librarians, the most commonly vandalized materials reported by the interviewer were magazines, cookbooks and children's materials. Another common complaint from the librarians was patrons who filled out the crossword puzzles of the daily newspapers carried by their libraries. They indicated that in confronting patrons, they seemed oblivious to the fact that they were ruining the paper for future readers. Similar to Curry, Flodin and Matheson's findings, Schuman (1994) has found that popular magazines tend to be more frequently targeted than scholarly journals. And his follow up study of the mutilation of popular magazines, he found that most mutilation occurs within the first three years after their publication, which makes sense given the heavier use of newer materials. Studies have also shown that unrepaired vandalized material is more likely to be vandalized again than material that has not been vandalized Schumm (1994).

Unfortunately, there are few statistics or sties as to the costs incurred by libraries in addressing vandalism. Curry, Flodin and Matheson (2000) found that the librarians they interviewed generally believed it was not worthwhile to keep statistics relating to this area and were unable to estimate the costs associated with vandalism in their libraries. Similarly, in Smith and Olszak's (1997) survey of academic art libraries, less than twenty percent kept statistics relating to the mutilation of their materials. It is unfortunate, given the statistics mentioned earlier as to the large number of libraries that experience vandalism that more information is not kept about the costs they incur. Although adding yet another to librarians' overcrowded plate, statistics rearing

the costs incurred in addressing vandalism could a powerful component in convincing those in charge of funding that certain security or prevention measure are warranted.

Some monetary costs of vandalism are obvious such as the cost of replacement and repairs. Other costs however, may not be immediately apparent to library users, such as the increased clerical, time spent ordering materials or repairs or tracking suppliers. Transportation costs involved in shipping materials need of repair or new materials being ordered. The differential between the replacement of an item compared to the original price, the custodial labour spent cleaning up debris, security investigations, and prosecutions Goldstein (1996) There are also social costs incurred as a consequence of vandalism such s stress of the act itself and the ‘added work it can entail, feelings of insecurity by both the library its users (Goldstein), and the reputation of the library either following from the feelings of insecurity of an easy target for further acts of vandalism.

Vandalism of books and non-books materials are a common phenomenon in Nigeria colleges of education libraries and if not checked will increase a serious threat to college library’s collection and presentation. In Nigeria, cases of book theft and vandalism abound. For four consecutive academic years spanning 1980-1984, the annual reports of the Kashim Ibrahim Library of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria carried cases of book theft and vandalism in the library. In 1980/81, the annual report was captioned “Delinquent Patrons” This report revealed cases of book theft and vandalism as well as illegal use of privately designed date due stamps by library patrons to stamp fictitious dates on books.

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A 400 level science student was caught throwing four (4) books out of the library by the Porters and was reported to Chief Security Officer, finding shows that the student was expelled for four (4) semesters from the university and he was also made to pay for the cost of the books.

**Data presentation, analysis and interpretation**

The data collected are presented and analyzed to determine the relevance of the study. The response and their percentages are presented in form of tables and charts with brief interpretation based on the research questions. The researcher distributed a total number of 200 questionnaires to library users of the colleges of education under study.

**Table 1:**  
Distribution of Questionnaire by institution libraries

Names of institution library	Frequency	Percentage (%)
College of Education library Warri	50	25
College of Education library Agbor	50	25
College of Education Physical Education library Mosogar	50	25
College of Education Technical library Asaba	50	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

The above table shows the names of institution library and the number of questionnaire that were distributed to respondent. From the above table one will understand that 50 questionnaires were distributed to each of the four colleges of Education and the responded. The total number of questionnaire distributed was 200 and also 200 questionnaires were returned for analysis.

**Table 2**  
Type of information materials mostly vandalized

Types of book materials	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Text books	107	53.5
Reference materials	37	18.5
Serials materials	30	15
Noon books materials	26	13
Total	200	100

When the above question was ask, which of the above book and non books materials are mostly vandalize in their library, the respondents' responses are as follow. The respondents rated Textbooks 107 (53.5%), Reference materials 37 (18.5%), serials materials 30 (15%) and noon books materials 26 (13%). from the above analysis therefore, it can be concluded that text books are mostly vandalized than any other type of information material for their library collection.

**Table 3**  
Penalties for vandals

Punishments	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Paying for the book in question	50	25
Reporting the case to student disciplinary committee for action	31	15.5
Library membership withdrawn	109	54.5
Dismissal from the college	10	5
Total	200	100



The users were asked to suggest the punishment for those found vandalizing library materials and the following were their responses, 109 (54.5%) users agreed that library membership should be withdrawn, 50 (25%) responded that, they should be made to pay for the book or books in question, 31 (15.5%) responded that the case should be reported to student disciplinary committee for necessary action, while 10(5%) responded that the culprit should be dismissed from the college for vandalizing its library materials. The above analysis shows that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that the culprit caught should have their membership withdrawn from the college.

**Table 4**

To find out the category of those vandals

<b>(Users)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Student	130	65
Staff	48	24
Other users	22	11
Total	200	100

The above table shows that the response rate of both the students and staff of the four colleges of Education, Staff response is 48 (24%), while 130 (65%) responded that students are those that are more involved in library vandalism. From the above table in this research, one will now understand that the students (users) are the ones that are mostly involved in library vandalism.

**Table 5.** Way that can be taken to stem information vandalism

<b>Ways to check vandalism</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
CCTV cameras should be provided for security check	60	30
Regular stock taking	49	24.5
Checking of book pages on returned	31	15.5
Regular lighting system	30	15
Porters checking users at the exit door.	30	15
Total	200	100

The above table shows that provision of CCTV cameras and regular stock taking are the major means to check the extent of library vandalism. The finding in this study is in agreement with Johnson (1974) who suggested that libraries should have a favourable attitude and the willingness to actively assume responsibility for preservation of library materials.

## CONCLUSION

The study has revealed that there are existences of vandalism in the four colleges of education libraries. It is in agreement with the findings of Ajala and Oyeboade (2008), which they equally reveal that vandalism is a part of the criminal activities perpetrated in the libraries which constitute a problem in the college libraries understudy. Prevention of libraries materials, are the major problem that libraries find difficult that need urgently action to curb. It also revealed that suspects of the vandalism are mainly students and library staff, but lecturers and other visitors also received pointing fingers. finally, the libraries under study have taken adequate measures to safeguard their information materials which include well burglar proofed windows and doors, reservation of materials in high demand, acquisition offenders, oral educating users, installation of CCTV monitors etc.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

It is obviously that college of Education libraries in Delta State are faced with to vandalism problems and in the light of the finding from the study conducted, the following are recommended;

1. Staff in-service training should be encouraged by the library management (librarian) to enlighten, particularly the junior staffs on what library profession is all about this will enhance the efficiency of the workers.
2. There should be regular funding of the library to enable it buy multiple copies of each book title.
3. There should be regular user education, regular campaign and suggestion books mounted in the library to enable those students have their views and grievances.
4. There should be ban on the wearing of suits, bubal, flaying gown to the library and also ban of sharp objects in the library.
5. Library porters should make regular patrol in reasonable intervals for proper checking of users.
6. There should be cheap and sharp photocopies in the library, to enable users make photocopies at any time.
7. Creating a network with other college libraries for returning books belonging to other libraries brought to their library.
8. Electronic devices should be installed in the college libraries to detect library item being stolen.
9. Porters should ensure that badges and big folders of users are not allowed in the library.
10. There should be special vote yearly for library security knowing the important at the library resources.

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